PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

LAUNCH PAD A3
LAUNCH COMPLEX A
SHUANG-CHENG-TZU
MISSILE TEST CENTER
CHINA

25X1

MARCH 1968

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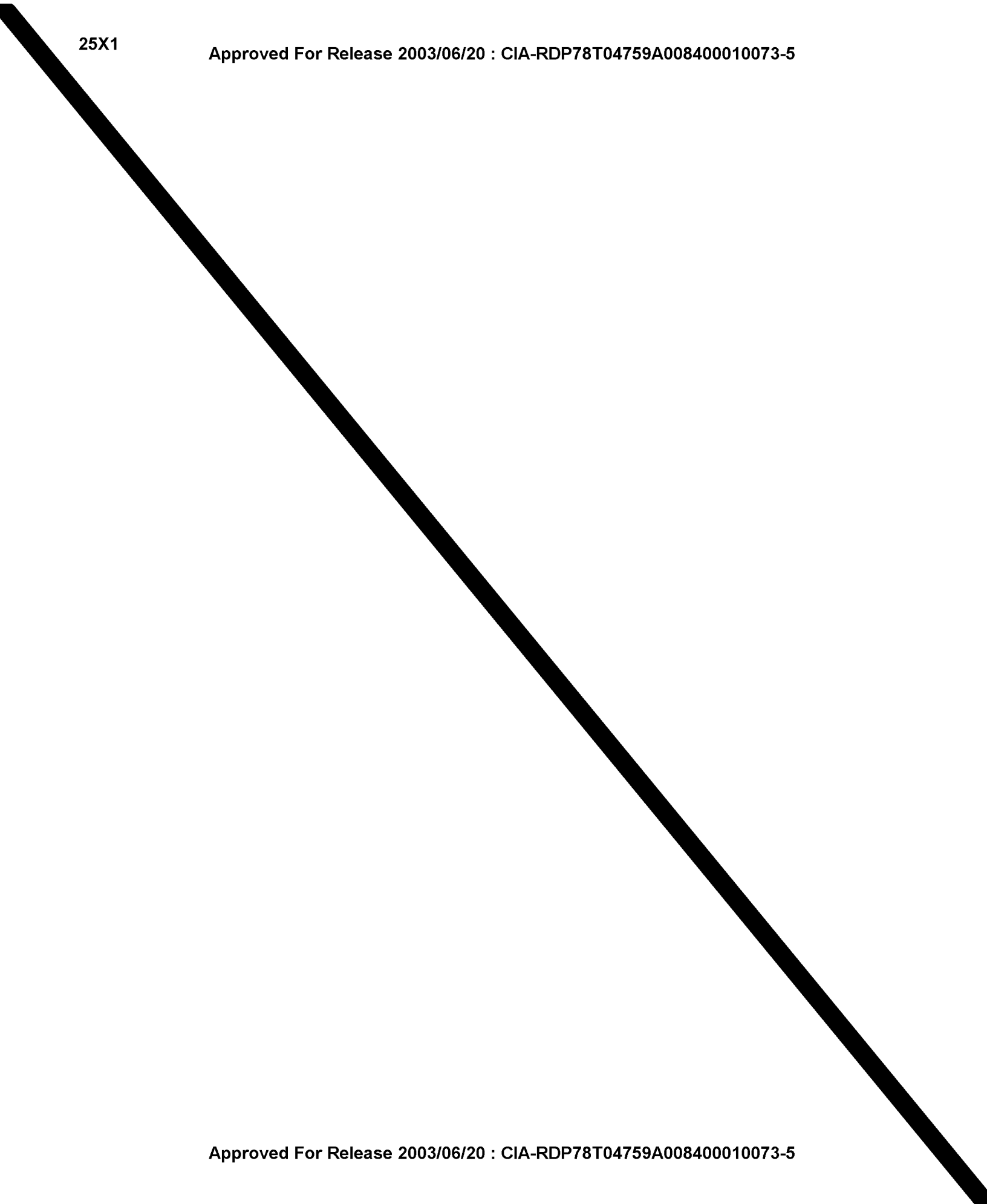

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LAUNCH PAD A3, LAUNCH COMPLEX A, SHUANG-CHENG-TZU MISSILE TEST CENTER, CHINA

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

This report, one of a series designed to provide current information on the Shuang-cheng-tzu Missile Test Center (SCTMTC), describes the new launch pad (A3) constructed at Launch Complex A during [redacted] The new pad is somewhat similar in configuration to the pad at Launch Complex D, but differs radically in size from Pads A1 and A2 and has a flame bucket at its center.

DESCRIPTION

Launch Complex A (Figures 1 and 2) was a 2-pad complex when first observed on [redacted] photography of [redacted] and remained such through [redacted] Missiles and missile-associated equipment have been observed frequently at the complex for more than 6 years, and Pad A1 apparently has been used for the majority of missile firings from the Shuang-cheng-tzu rangehead. Details of the development of Launch Complex A are given in [redacted] SSM Launch Facilities, Shuang-cheng-tzu Missile Test Center, China. 1/

There were no essential changes to the complex until early [redacted] when activity not visible on the last previous coverage of [redacted] was observed south of Pad A1. The first evidences of construction activity for Pad A3 (Figures 3 and 4) were the preparation of service roads and the excavation at the site of the future launch point. On photography of [redacted] road construction was underway from Pad A1 to the east and west entrances to the new pad, and an irregular excavation was present at the new launch point. An accurate depth measurement for the excavation has not been determined, but comparisons with existing structures in the complex indicate that it was in excess of 10 feet. A new large building was under construction immediately east of the combination barracks/heat plant at the entrance to Pad A1, and the security fence to the south had been at least partially removed.

[redacted] a trough-like possible flame bucket (sloped at each end) had been emplaced in the excavation at Pad A3, and a trench had been opened from the control bunker at Pad A1 to the immediate vicinity of the new launch point. Probable concrete forms for the access road to Pad A3 were on the roadbed adjacent to each end of the pad construction site. A new curved road connection had been constructed from the northeast corner of Pad A1 to the existing road immediately east of the pad. The existing trenchline east of the entrance to Pad A1 had been extended to the new large building under construction, and the foundation for another structure was visible north of the new building. A powerline leading from the transformer/switch house to the new launch point was also observed.

[redacted] photography of small scale and/or poor interpretability revealed only gross changes at Pad A3 such as paving of the east and west approaches, and the presence of tents/structures west of the entrance to the pad. On large-scale coverage of [redacted] Pad A3 was in a late stage of construction and the cable trench to the control bunker was complete and backfilled. Paving of the approach roads was about 70 percent complete, and surfacing of the pad area had been started.

The new launch pad (A3) was probably complete on photography of [redacted] when the temporary buildings/tents associated with the construction phase were in the final stage of removal and a gate was emplaced across the east approach road. No further changes have been observed on [redacted] photography through [redacted] Pads A1 and A2 were snow covered on photography of [redacted] but the snow had been cleared from Pad A3.

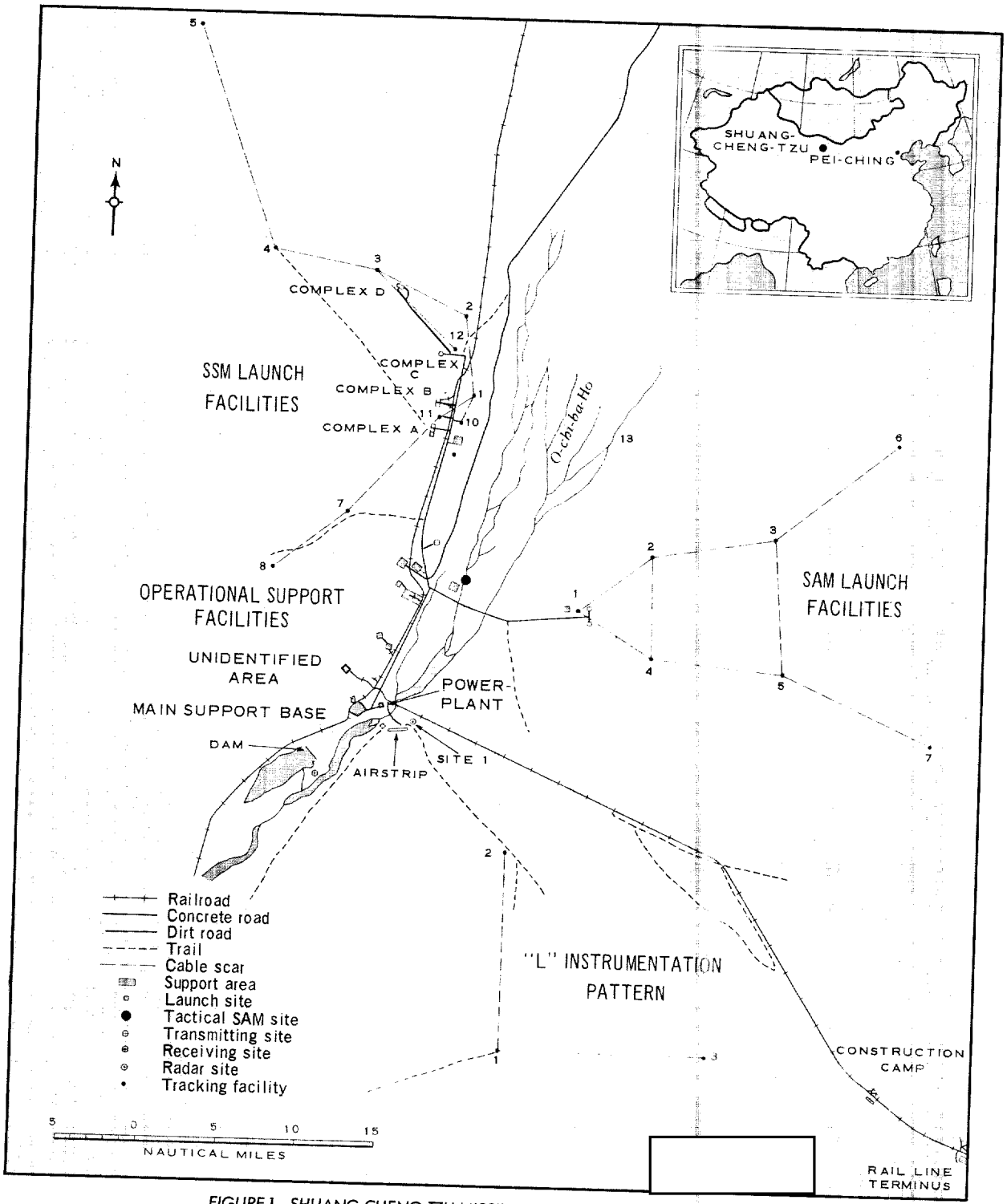

FIGURE 1. SHUANG-CHENG-TZU MISSILE TEST CENTER (SCTMTC), CHINA.

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REFERENCES

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC [redacted] *SSM Launch Facilities, Shuang-Cheng-Tzu Missile Test Center, China,* Feb 67 (TOP SECRET

REQUIREMENT

GMAIC. 4-67

NPIC PROJECT

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